

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01002 031957Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4058

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 1002

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, EG, SY, SW

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 791

(B) LONDON 2426

(C) STATE 046682

1. WHILE CALLING ON FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON TO DISCUSS IEA, (SEE SEPTTEL) I USED OCCASION TO ASK ANDERSSON TO PROVIDE ME WITH HIS IMPRESSIONS OF HIS VISIT LAST WEEK TO CAIRO.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE CONSIDERED IT "NATURAL" FOR SWEDEN TO SUPPORT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO MID-EAST SETTLEMENT, SINCE SWEDEN IS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE WISDOM OF THIS APPROACH. HE SAID THAT BOTH PRESIDENT SADAT AND FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY EXPRESSED COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH THE SECRETARY'S APPROACH AS HOLDING OUT THE BEST HOPE FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE MID-EAST PROBLEM.

3. CONTINUING, ANDERSSON SAID FAHMY HAD SAID THAT THE FIRST STEP IN THIS APPROACH SHOULD BE DISENGAGEMENT IN SINAI AND GOLAN HEIGHTS. ACCORDING TO FAHMY, A SOLUTION IN SINAI IS CONTINGENT ON DISENGAGEMENT AT GOLAN HEIGHTS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO REACH A DISENGAGEMENT ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS BEFORE THE MAY 24 DATE ON WHICH THE U.N. MANDATE THERE EXPIRES. HOWEVER, ANDERSSON SAID HE NOTED THAT IN SUBSEQUENT

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CONVERSATIONS, OTHER HIGHLY PLACED EGYPTIANS DID NOT TAKE SO

CATEGORICAL A VIEW ON THE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE SINAI AND GOLAN AS DID FAHMY.

4. ANDERSSON REPORTED THAT FAHMY SAID THAT SINCE, THE ISSUES OF JERUSALEM AND THE PALESTINIANS WERE SO DIFFICULT, A SOLUTION COULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER THE DISENGAGEMENTS IN SINAI AND GOLAN. THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT BOTH SADAT AND FAHMY HAD EXPLICITLY STATED THEIR PREFERENCE FOR U.S. RATHER THAN SOVIET MEDIATION, ADDING THAT SADAT WAS OPENLY CRITICAL OF SOVIET FAILURE TO DELIVER MILITARY EQUIPMENT. FURTHERMORE, SADAT TOLD ANDERSSON THAT IF THE U.S. MEDIATION FAILED, THERE WOULD INEVITABLY BE WAR, INASMUCH AS HE (SADAT) COULD NOT INDEFINITELY MAINTAIN HIS 800,000 MAN ARMY ON WAR FOOTING IN VIEW OF THE TREMENDOUS STRAIN IT PLACED ON THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMY AND POLITICS.

5. ANDERSSON SAID THAT SADAT CONCEDED THAT HE IS UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM OTHER ARAB STATES. SADAT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD "EXERCISE HIS INFLUENCE WITH THE SYRIANS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO ACCEPT A SETTLEMENT." ANDERSSON OBSERVED THAT THROUGHOUT HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH SADAT AND FAHMY, THEY REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO AN ISRAELI RETURN TO ITS 1967 BORDERS AS A PREREQUISITE FOR A SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL. HOWEVER, THEY DID SAY THAT WITHDRAWAL NEED NOT TAKE PLACE AT ONCE, BUT COULD BE DONE IN PHASES.

6. ANDERSSON CONCLUDED THAT, IN THE LAST RESORT, THE EGYPTIANS WOULD BE GUIDED BY THEIR OWN INTEREST RATHER THAN BY THEIR SENSE OF ARAB SOLIDARITY, AND THAT IT IS SADAT ALONE WHO WOULD MAKE THE CRUCIAL DECISIONS.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STOCKH01002
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750074-0300
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750387/aaaadash.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STOCKHOLM 791
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON
TAGS: PFOR, XF, EG, SY, SW, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (ANDERSSON, SVEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006